VOLUME 15, NUMBER 5

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER 1999

SACWN
SACRAMENTO AREA COMMUNITY WOMEN'S NETWORK

OCTOBER 11 IS NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY!!

Coming out! The words alone can make us cringe, make us smile, make us cry, empower us. There is probably nothing more commonly shared in our community than coming out stories. Regardless of our individual differences, we can all feel a commonality and a bonding when sharing our coming out stories.

For most of us, coming out is a lifelong rite of passage. After coming out to ourselves, we find we have embarked on a journey which requires that, in some way or another, we continue to come out - to our families, to our friends, to our neighbors, to our coworkers, to our community. Many find that, regardless of the response they receive, they are strengthened by virtue of being open about who they are. There is such a burden lifted when one no longer has to keep hidden the very essence of her being.

While, unfortunately, some have very painful experiences, the majority of those with whom we spoke were able to report positive coming out experiences. And interestingly, the majority of the positive experiences shared involved coming out to their mothers.

In honor of National Coming Out Day, we are going to let the words of these proud Sacramento lesbians speak for themselves:

"My mother knew before I knew. I was about 15 years old and I had a crush on a girl in junior high. The girl's parents came to my mother and asked that I not come around anymore. My mother didn't say anything to me at the time, but about three years later my brother decided he needed to tell my mother. My mother just said to me, 'Mi jita, I knew before. Your sister and I already talked about it and were just waiting for you to figure it out.' The whole family already knew and accepted me just as I was."

- Rita

"After I came out to my mother, she went to a seminar a few months later and identified herself as a lesbian so she would know how I felt. Then we were able to talk about it later. It was really wonderful."

- Linda

"Every time I've come out it's been positive. I have never had a negative experience. I was hesitating to tell my mother but since I was going to the Gay Games in 1990, I decided to tell her then. I wrote her a letter telling her and she responded, 'Great. Good luck.'"

- Gini

"When I came out to my 73 year old next door neighbor, she just said 'Good for you'."

- Cath

"I was in college when I came out to my mother. I had been nervous for months about telling my parents. One day I went into the kitchen and asked my mother to sit down. After we both sat

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COMMITTEES

Activities Committee--Anna (344-0386)
Welcoming Committee--Toni (393-1617)
Newsletter Committee--Sandy (772-8630)
Special Interest Groups ("SIGs")--Dee (443-2377)
Volunteer Coordinator and
Community Outreach--Phoenix (372-6051)
Data Entry--Nancy (452-6007)

Women who want to participate in the operation of SACWN are encouraged to contact any of the above listed committee coordinators.

SACWN SOCIAL

Friday, December 10th
5:30 pm to 8:00 pm
at FACES, 2000 K Street, Sacramento

Help us celebrate SACWN's successful 1999 season and meet other SACWN members and women from the Commuunity.

No Host Bar, Hors doeuvres, and D.J.

COMMING OUT
Continued from Page 1

down I said, 'I have something to tell you.' She tried to act calm, not knowing what I was going to say. When I said, 'I am gay', she just said 'I thought so.' I was so relieved and so was she. She asked me 'Why didn't you tell us earlier?' Her only regret was that I had to keep it to myself and deal with it by myself all that time."

- Lisa

"I came out to my best friend, who is a fundamentalist christian, right before coming out to my family. I told her I wanted her to be the first person I came out to. She took it very well and we are still best friends two years later. My friend has even joined PFLAG. She also is putting together a group of christians who are allies of gays and lesbians."

- Sophi

"My mother came to visit in 1996 and went to the Pride Fair with me. When we were walking around, she kept repeating 'I am so glad my daughter's a lesbian.' We had a really great time.

- Carmen

"After taking a new job about 10 years ago, I decided it was a good time to be out at work. I didn't make any big announcements. I just presented myself exactly as I am. When my coworkers shared what they did over the weekend, I shared what I did too. When someone would ask if I had a husband, I would say that I did not have a husband, I had a partner and use her name. I find that by being comfortable with who I am, my coworkers are comfortable too. Even the few who were a little hinky at first have come around. The biggest plus is that I know the people who like me, really like me for exactly who I am. It is just such a burden to censor stuff and such a freedom to be out."

- Lee

"I was a teacher for many years and worked with a woman who was deeply religious and whose father had written anti-gay books. After a few years, I decided to tell her. In the office after school one day, I said 'I am gay'. She got up and hugged me and said, "I will always love you for the wonderful person you are." It was a terrific experience."

- Sue

ANNOUNCING SACWN's
HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY!
Joseph's Town & Country
1454 Del Paso Blvd., 2nd Floor
Saturday, October 30, 1999
9:00 pm to 2:00 am
$6.00 per person, tickets at the door
No Host Bar, Door Prizes, Light Buffet
Prizes for Best Costume

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

SACWN's Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are small, friendly groups of women who get together monthly (if not more often) to share activities of mutual interest. New members are always welcomed, so we encourage you to call the contact people listed to find out what activities are being planned.

Have an interest but don't see such a group listed below? No problem. Just call Dee (443-2377) who will help you get your new group advertised in the next newsletter.

Top 10

Top 10 is a group of women over 50 and women who love women over 50. Each month we get together for a meal at a local restaurant or for special at-home potlucks. Please remember to RSVP for all events and call early as seating may be limited.

- On Sunday, October 10 at 3:00 pm Paula and Sharon are hosting a potluck BBQ. They will supply the hot dogs and burgers. Each guest is expected to bring a dish to share and their own drinks. RSVP by October 6.

  Paula or Sharon, 967-0560

- On Saturday, November 13th at 3:00 pm Betty and Dot will be hosting a pre-Thanksgiving potluck party. They will provide the turkey and we will bring the fixins and drinks. RSVP by November 10.

  Betty and Dot, 456-2577

Half Fast Hiking Group

This is a well organized, friendly group of serious hikers who know how to have fun. We are in our third successful year of day-hiking with hikes scheduled once a month all year long. We walk at a comfortable pace and usually average about five miles round trip on hikes that are rated "easy" to "moderate". Call for a calendar of events and an information sheet. All newcomers receive a warm welcome. Please join us for the time of your life!

Ann 443-3638

Craftswomen

Due to school commitments, etc., craftswomen is going on hiatus. It will return when time permits. SACWN wishes you good luck with your classes Phoenix.

Singles Meeting Singles for Fun

Calendar for Oct. and Nov.:

- We go every Saturday to watch the Women's Flag Football League from 9:30am to 1:30pm at the Sports Complex, 3701 Stephen Drive Last game is 11/13/99
- Saturday, Oct . 9th @ 8:00 pm, Dance for WEAVE with Stacey Bartlett Band.
- Sunday, Oct. 10th, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm WATERWORLD USA with Taylor Dayne LIVE $25
- Friday, Oct.15th, Healing Circle 7:00 pm
- Saturday, Oct. 16th, Dance for Breast Cancer at Joseph's at 9:00 pm.
- Sunday, Oct. 24th, 10:00am, A Day Trip to Apple Hill
- Saturday, Oct .30th, SACWN Halloween Costume Party at Joseph's at 9:00 pm $6.00.
- Sunday, Nov. 14th Bowling and Planning Meeting at Land Park Bowl, 3:00pm
- Friday, Nov. 19th, Movie Night.
- Saturday, Nov. 27, Thanksgiving Potluck

RSVP as event dates and times can change.

Debbie, 452-5979
Diana, 972-9465

Pool Group

Do you like to play pool for fun? If you are interested in getting together with other women to play pool, call:

Mary J, 731-8531

Newcomers

Are you new to the area or the lifestyle, and want to meet new people? Give me a call and I will do all I can to provide you with information to help you get tuned in to the network of activities available.

Diana, 487-3124

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) cont.

Rainbow Campers

October 30, 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. a potluck, open to all, will be held to plan the year 2000 camping season, April through September. At this planning meeting we will choose where to go, on what dates and set the procedures for attending a campout.

Any women who love the out-of-doors and love to camp will be interested in this special interest group. We are a diverse group of women ranging in age from 18 to 72 who get together once a month at a campground. We have folks in tents, trailers, motor homes, pop-up trailers, van conversions, and some who have friends who may be considered "tag-alongs" as they come camping with us.

Call Barbara Stannard to RSVP at 929-3074, day or evening, and get the directions to the potluck. Also, any questions about Rainbow Campers may be directed to Barb.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Mom's Club

Come over to my house for Movie and game night. Bring a favorite game and a dessert to share on Friday, November 5th at 7:00 pm. RSVP for location.

Claire, (530)676-5459

Coffee Group

Come for coffee, company and congenial conversation. No RSVP necessary, but call if you want more information. The Coffee Group will meet on Sunday, October 24 at 2:30 pm, Cafe Bernardo at 2726 Capitol Avenue. In November we will meet at 2:30 at Cafe Bernardo on Sunday the 21st. Join us.

Betty, 731-7192

Fool House Poker Group

Feeling lucky? Then join me for a friendly game of poker every 2nd Friday of the month. Novice players welcome, I guarantee you will have a good time. For time and location of game, call

Gretchen, 922-6287

Arts and Entertainment

Thursday, October 7th, join us for STC's production of "Laughter On The 23rd Floor", a comedy by Neil Simon. Cost $25, Seniors $20. Call ASAP for ticket details.

Sharon, 421-3890

Friday, October 22nd, meet at 7:30 pm for Lambda Players production of "Coffeehouse" at Geery Theatre, 22nd & L Streets, cost $10. Call to reserve ticket by October 17th.

366-3904

Also, before the play and for all December and January A&E events, join us for dinner at The Distillery at 6:00 pm. RSVP for dinner by October 19th.

Dee, 395-4147

Sunday, November 7th, meet at 1:30 pm at the Community Center Theater, 13th & L Streets, for the 1998 Tony Award winner "Art", a comedy starring Judd Hirsch. Tickets $30. Call by October 17 for ticket details.

Mary, 395-4147

Women in Motion

Are you interested in improving your dance movement, style and techniques? Then join us for new classes which will begin in Oct./Nov. The lessons will be held on Friday evenings at the Del Campo Dance Studio in Fair Oaks. The cost is $7.00 per person (in advance) for those paying by the month. If you prefer to pay for one lesson at a time, then the cost is $9.00 per lesson also payable in advance. The instructors are experienced, friendly, and make it fun. Experience and a partner ARE NOT necessary.

Anna. 916.344.0386

email, annac007@jps.net for the latest information.

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'RE DATING ?

(it's a race for the bottom)

According to a new book on the subject, "Dating is a process in which attraction, energy, emotions, shared interests, values and experiences - and passion - combine with your intention to explore a romantic involvement with another woman."

While having a definition of the process might be helpful, it does not necessarily clarify for most women the question of "How do you know when you're dating?" In our community there can be a very fine line between getting together with another woman as a friend, and going out on a date, and frequently that fine line can become blurred when at least one of the women starts to have "those feelings".

Most humor is based in some reality. We're all familiar with the standard joke that goes: What does a lesbian bring on her first date? A moving van! And while most of us wait until at least the second or third date to take that trip to U Haul, it is fairly clear that dating is not a well defined process in our community.

We decided to pose the question to women who came by the SACWN booth at the Rainbow Festival to see if they could shed some light on the subject. While the most common responses were, "Oh God" and "I don't know", or just plain laughter, we did elicit some interesting and enlightening insights which we are happy to share with you:

- "You have to ask if this is a date or just two people getting together. Talk about it."
- "When your hands get sweaty and you feel like throwing up."
- "When kissing comes into it."
- "Common sense. It's obvious by the way you express yourselves to each other. It's the vibes."
- "When you get nervous."
- "When you're single and looking for a partner. Maybe when you have something nefarious on your mind. It's a good question."
- "When something physical occurs - like kissing. Some brave person has to make a move."
- "A date is when I am asking someone out and I am totally focusing on them for the whole evening."
- "When you actually go out before you have sex."
- "When you have gone out with the person more than twice in one week and at least one kiss."
- "You feel the electricity."
- "When you don't invite anyone else along to join you."
- "When you change the sheets before you go out."
- "When you're dating you're still polite to each other."
- "When you don't want to make any plans until you talk to the other person."
- "When you're on your best behavior."
- "When you pay more attention to the person you're with than the activity that you're sharing.

For further enlightenment, you can always purchase "The Dating Dance: A Guide for Women Dating Women" by Joyce M. Gayles.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 A&E "Laughter On The 23rd Floor"	8 Fool House Poker Group	9 W.E.A.V.E. Fundraiser
10 Top 10 Potluck Singles, Waterworld	11	12	13	14	15 Singles - Healing Circle	16 40+ Breast Cancer Fundraiser
17	18	19	20	21	22 A&E Lambda Players "Coffehouse"	23
24 Coffee Group Sngles - Apple Hill	25	26	27	28	29	30 Halloween Party Rainbow Campers Planning Potluck
31						

NOVEMBER

	1	2	3	4	5 Mom's Club Movie & Game Night	6
7 A&E Community Ctr Theater, "Art"	8	9	10	11	12 Fool House Poker Group	13 Top 10 Thanksgiving Potluck Party
14 Singles - Bowling & Planning	15	16	17	18	19 Singles - Movie Night	20
21 Coffee Group Cafe Bernardo	22	23	24	25	26	27 Singles - Thanksgiving Potluck
28	29	30				

COMMUNITY EVENTS

In November
the Sacramento Area **Community** Women's Newwork
presents the premier of

"Out of Season"

a film by Jeanette Buck
at the Crest Theater

check theater listings for details.

Sacramento Therapy Resources

Susan "Gaye" Marchini, MA, MSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker LCS-15812

Persons & Families of ALL Distinctions Welcome
Physically Challenged Accessibility-SlidingScale

2277 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite 150
Next to the " Pavillon"
Sacramento, CA. 95825 916/646-4143
E-mail; GSusanMarchini@email.msn.com

40+
Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser

Saturday, October 16, 9:00 pm to 2:00 am
Joseph's Town & Country
$5.00 cover
Light buffet, door prizes and 50-50 raffle

W.E.A.V.E Works
Fundraiser

Saturday, October 9th, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm
Appearances by
Stacey Bartlett and other Artists
Contact Julie at 554-2412 for additional information.

Sue Wolf
Insurance Agent

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910 Floral Road #101
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SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION

Name(s): _____

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Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

☐ New ☐ Renewing

Categories	Rates
Regular	$36.00
Sustaining	$48.00
Limited Income	$24.00

Rates are per household, per year and will be pro-rated based on the month in which you subscribe. The subscription year is February through January.

Waiver - I am aware that certain risks or injuries could occur arising from my participation in SACWN, Inc., events and/or special interest groups. In consideration of the right to participate in such events, some of which may involve strenuous activity (i.e. hiking, golfing, skiing, cycling, etc.), I hereby assume all risks and will hold SACWN, Inc. and its members harmless from all liability which may arise in connection with these activities.

Signature_____ Date_____

Signature_____ Date_____

Make checks payable to SACWN

Mail to: SACWN at
P.O. Box 340593
Sacramento, CA 95834-0593

VOLUNTEER FORM

Can you volunteer?

We need help in the following areas:

Newsletter

☐ Writers

☐ Editors

☐ Proofreaders

☐ Layout & Graphics

Communications

☐ Telephone

☐ Mailings

☐ Database

Activities

☐ Dance Organizers

☐ Assistants

☐ Planners

COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, VIEWPOINT

_____

_____

_____

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_____

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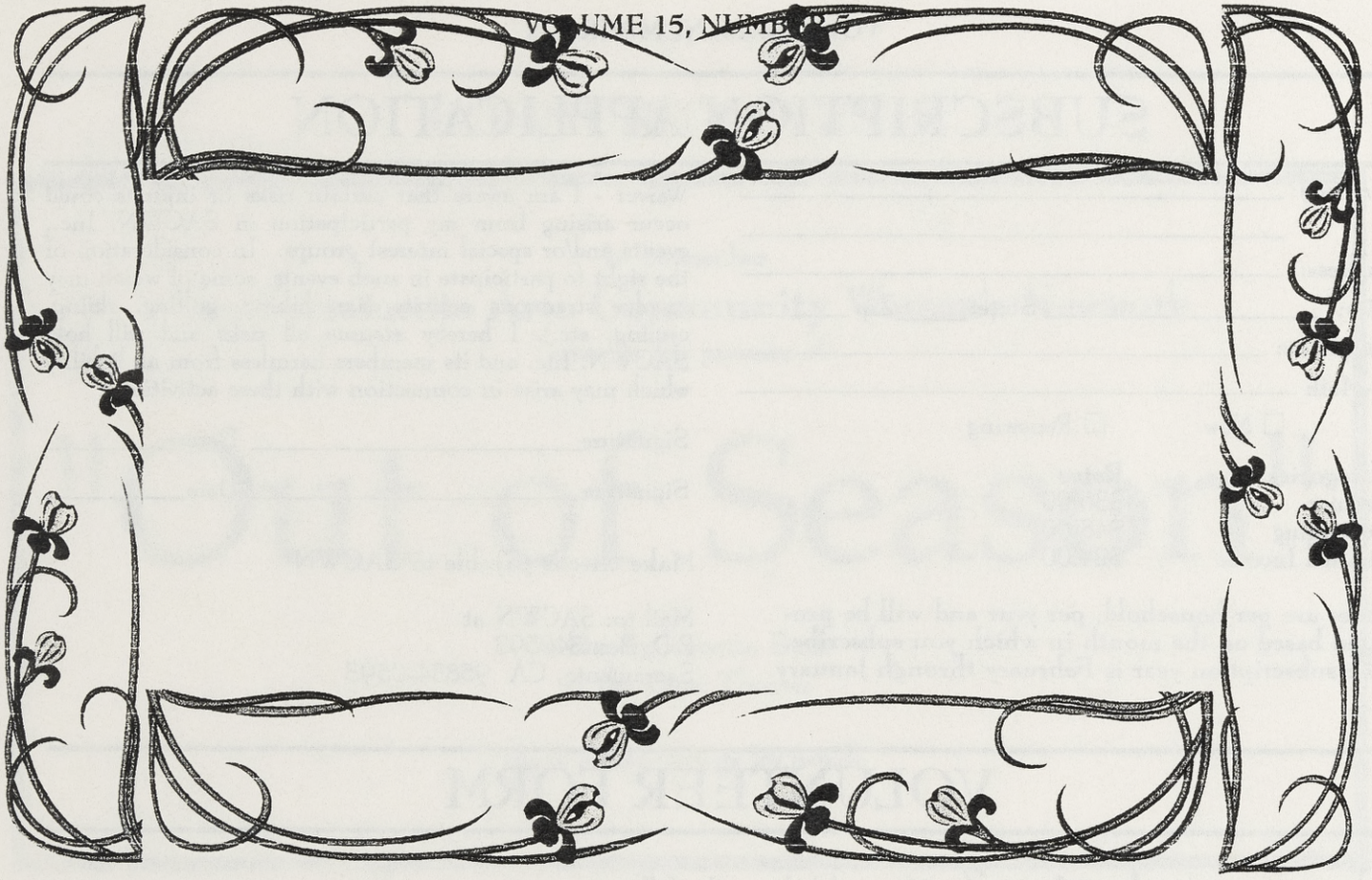
Want to contact us but don't want to write? SACWN has voice mail! Call (916)451-8034, leave a message and we will respond as soon as possible.



SACWN
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED